

... *The Columbus Republic* had a front page article today on Congressman Pence's decision to renew his [commitment](#) to reforming the earmarking system before partaking in what [he has called a "deeply flawed" process](#).

[Pence said in February](#) when the omnibus bill was introduced in the House that too many appropriations requests - "earmarks" - were not given enough time to be scrutinized publicly, and too little accountability exists.

"It is because I believe that Hoosiers and all Americans deserve better that I am renewing my commitment to remove myself from the system while continuing for reform of the earmark process," Pence said.

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., also is not requesting appropriations funds, citing economic recovery as the country's greatest need and the importance of spending every dollar to help that effort.

The Republic has been supportive of Congressman Pence's principled stances in the past, [editorializing last May](#) that

AGREE or disagree with him politically, even his most fervent critics would have to acknowledge that Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., is walking the walk in his position on wasteful government spending.

Pence, who represents parts of Bartholomew County in the Second Congressional District, raised several eyebrows several weeks ago, when he announced that he would not use the practice of legislative "earmarks" to gain Congressional support for local projects in his district in the 2009 budget year.

It's been a popular practice in Washington for several years and allows legislators to slip their requests into popular but oftentimes unrelated legislation.

Few of his peers joined him in the effort, and some criticized the principled stand on the grounds that other legislators would simply get the money for their districts that could have gone to this area.

He took another principled stance last week, when he voted against a farm bill, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

The bill passed the House by a wide margin, but Pence registered his opposition to the measure - which would benefit many of the farmers in his district - because of his belief the bill would cost American taxpayers more than \$650 billion over the next 10 years.

His position on these forms of government spending likely will cost him some votes, especially since so many of his colleagues have followed merrily the traditional path of political expediency.

At least he is remaining true to his convictions.